

***PROPOSED NEW FEMA FLOOD MAP FOR BEVERLY REFLECTS
CHANGES TO LOCAL FLOOD RISK***

Residents and Business Owners Encouraged to Attend Open House

Beverly officials and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced the release of new proposed flood maps for Beverly that depict flood risk across the community. The new proposed flood maps were developed after an extensive, multi-year study of the North Coastal Watershed (Beverly shoreline/inland about ¼ mile) that used state-of-the-art technologies and risk modeling techniques.

The maps, known collectively as a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and related flood risk data and information will be used to update plans to protect the community from flooding, help inform future development and identify changes in flood risks.

The new maps are still preliminary and have not yet been officially adopted. Beverly officials encourage residents and business owners to review the proposed flood map to learn about local flood risk and identify any concerns or questions about the information provided. A Public Comment Period opened August 9, 2013 and will close November 7, 2013. Property owners will be able to submit appeals and comments related to the map's accuracy during this period. Comments/protests/appeals should be sent to Tom Tufts, STARR, 5565 Centerview Drive, Suite 107, Raleigh, NC 27606 and copied to Kerry Bogdan, FEMA Region 1, 99 High Street, 6th floor, Boston, MA 02110 and Rich Zingarelli, MA DCR, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114. Once these comments are received and addressed, the maps are expected to be adopted. Once the maps become effective, any related new insurance and floodplain management requirements will take effect.

Open House to Highlight Flood Risk Changes

Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend an open house that will be held by FEMA on Monday, September 30, 2013 at Lynn Municipal Auditorium, 3 City Hall Square, Lynn, MA from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn how and why the local risk of flooding has changed, how the proposed new flood maps will be used, and the steps they can take to protect themselves from extensive flood damage.